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# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Published from time to time for the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association  
Volume 3 February 1960 Number 4

## SUNDAY STAR MAGAZINE FEATURES FOGGY BOTTOM

Handsome, curly-haired Carlos Rogers gave Foggy Bottom the biggest surprise of the New Year when he carried the Sunday Star to subscribers on his route in our neighborhood the morning of January 3.

It was a surprise to all of us in Foggy Bottom when we opened up our Star and saw a color picture of a familiar I-Street home on the Magazine cover--the home of George MacKinnon and Herbert Socks. And inside were more pictures of rows of houses along I Street and 25th in Foggy Bottom.

The story, starting on page 8, was titled "Architectural Legacies Restored to High Fashion." It was written by Staff Writer Harriet Griffiths. Only part of the story, indeed, was about Foggy Bottom--other neighborhoods mentioned were Georgetown, Alexandria, Capitol Hill, and the Kalamazoo Triangle, off Connecticut Avenue.

Sunday Magazine Editor Philip H. Love tells us he got the idea for the story when a newspaperman in New England wrote him that he would like to exchange articles about restoration work going on in American cities.





# UNION METHODIST CHURCH

814 - 20th Street

cordially invites its foggy bottom neighbors to its worship services....

## STREET SCENES IN SUNDAY STAR MAGAZINE STORY OF FOGGY BOTTOM

The cover picture, on page 1 of our story, a color shot in the original, shows the home of Herbert Socks and George MacKinnon on I Street. The Star explained that the restored Socks-MacKinnon house contrasted with the unrestored dwelling next door, and added, "The Foggy Bottom restoration is part of a growing movement to reinvigorate the Capital's older residential areas." This picture, taken in September, shows the author, Miss Griffiths, back to camera. By the way, the picture was taken none too soon to show contrasting houses, restored and unrestored. Restoration on the unrestored house is now progressing toward completion at an early date.

Now let's stroll up I Street east and call on the people who live in the houses shown in that street scene. "Dormers, fanlights, and little fences embellish houses in the 2400 block of I Street, N. W., part of the spruced-up Foggy Bottom area, " is the way the legend describes this view. Nearest us in the picture is Number 2427, where Frank Wrenn and his cousin H. M. Smith live. And next door, with the "Fan-like window, " dwell Betty Lou Miller and her mother, at Number 2425. Best looking window in the block, declare mother and daughter, not boasting at all. Dee and Nan Van Wagenen have the "Kennard House, " at 2423. They bought it from our former neighbors, the man-and-wife team of architects, Shirley and Hunter Kennard, who restored it. Little Jay Van Wagenen, born a Foggy Bottomer, must be getting on to a year-and-a-half about now. Professor and Mrs. Millard Sellman (Millard and Emma) have "Mr. Dick's" old place, now spruced up pretty. "Mr. Dick" was the old gentleman who lived and died at 2421. Everybody called him "Mr. Dick, " but his real name was Richard Burrell. He left the place to his sister, Emma. Millard teaches at Veterans High School. Next to last

house we see but a little, Number 2419. It belongs to Eleanor Mitchell; and the last house, Number 2417, of which only a smidgen of a shutter shows, is Dale and Ellen Sumption's, formerly Rhea Radin's.

Our view up 25th Street looks north from a point close to where it intersects I Street. "Neat row of seasoned town houses, " reads the Star's legend. Nearest to us is 906, Dorothy Cascioni's house. If the photographer had stood back a little he could have included the homes of Jack Bobbit (904) and Angelina Brain (902), third and second houses from the corner.

Joe and Fran McLaughlen, and little "Ceci, " live at 910, and next door, at 912, are Mr. and Mrs. John Benkson. Beside them, at 912  $\frac{1}{2}$ , are Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Libby. Margaret Hays and Dorothy Meredith live at 914--also that darling Irish terrier, Cricket. Betty Harrison, at 914  $\frac{1}{2}$ , has the house next door, and nearly identical. Newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeman, live at 916. Bob Keith's unfinished place is Number 918, and beyond the arched alleyway is 920, the home of Colonel Edward J. Murphy. Sis and Gordon Campbell's little house, 922, nestles up against the big apartment house, the Alamac, at 924, with the winsome resident manager, Martha Franklin. A little of Potomac House, across the alley, shows.

Our sketches are by Shirley Kennard, our Art Editor, from photographs by Elwood Baker, of the Star.

### THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is published from time to time by the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association.

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FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS  
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## Sunday Star Features (Continued from p. 1)

Mr. Love assigned the story to his staffer, Miss Griffiths. Elwood Baker, also of the Star staff, took the pictures. Mr. Love has graciously given us permission to reprint the article in part. Shirley Kennard, our own art editor, made our illustrations from Mr. Baker's photographs. We quote from the Sunday Star Magazine for January 3.

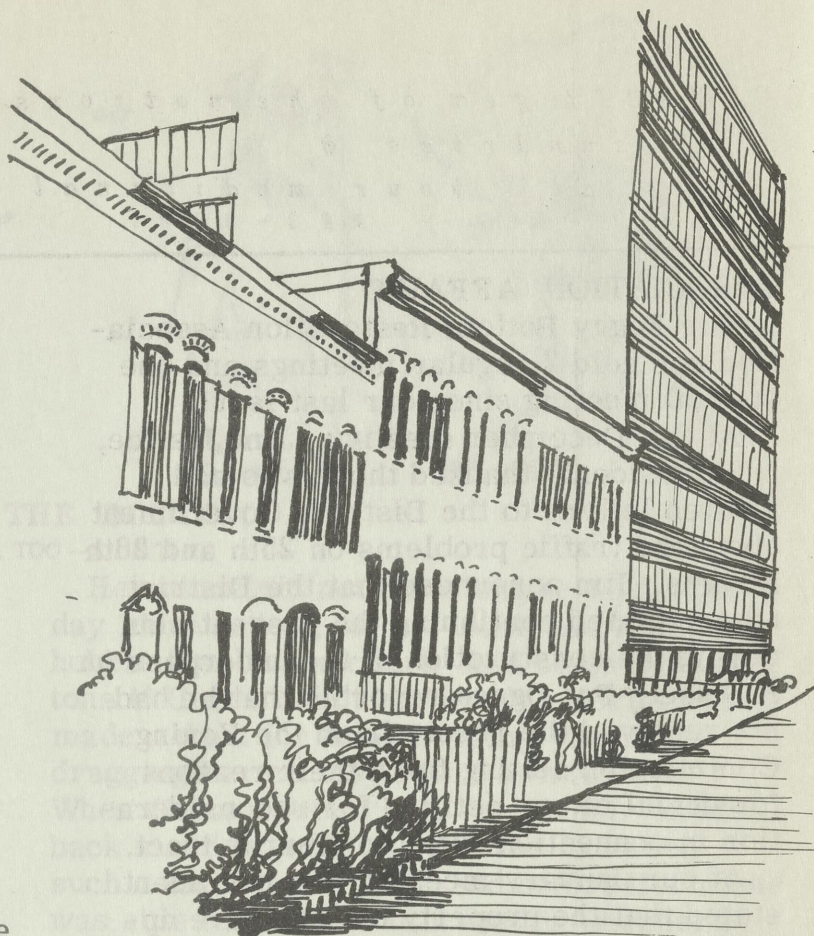
"Practical as well as esthetic motives are behind the restoration culture flourishing in three sections of the Nation's Capital and now beginning to sprout in a fourth. Victorian and even later vintage houses are joining the harvest.

"Across the Potomac River, Alexandria's woovers of antiquity enjoy the comforts of modern plumbing and air conditioning in an 18th century setting that George Washington knew.

"In the Capital, the fashionable and high-priced square mile of Georgetown is the leading restored neighborhood. Sniffing the wood-smoke from its fireplaces on a quiet winter evening, a visitor easily could imagine himself back in early Federal days were it not for the late-model automobiles hugging the curbs.

"A movement that has gained steadily since World War II is the comeback of Capitol Hill. Reclamation of once-tacky sections near the halls of Congress, along with Federal office building expansion, has erased a cliché from the exhibits of housing reformers--the picture of slums "in the very shadow of the Capitol dome."

"Westward across the Mall toward Georgetown lies another, younger sphere of activity known as Foggy Bottom. Several years of



restoration fever here have reclaimed an estimated 80 per cent of the late 19th century residences in the 11-block area on which the local restoration society concentrates its efforts.

"Many of the houses are tiny, some less than 13 feet wide. One reason for restoring, rather than rebuilding, even the renovation may start from a mere brick shell, is the city's building code requiring wider frontage for new houses, therefore fewer houses in a block. Another factor is the space-consuming off-street parking requirement for new building.

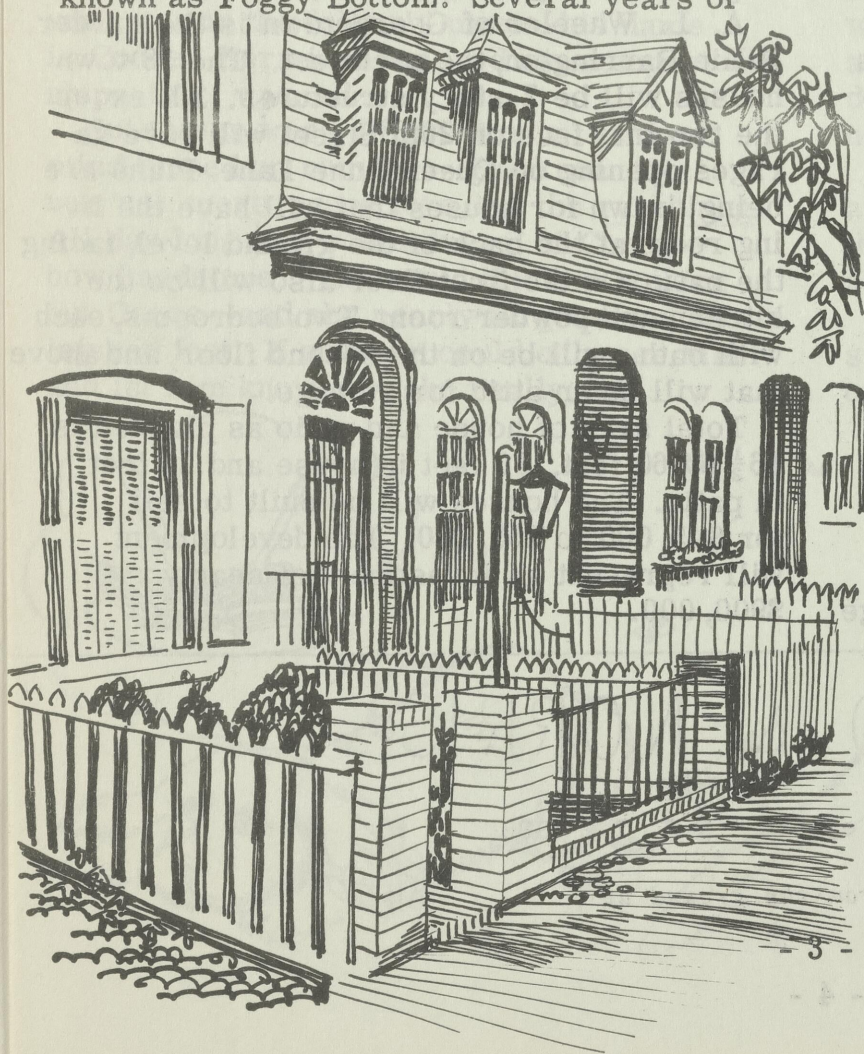
"From the old gashouse district on the wrong side of the tracks, Foggy Bottom has turned into a section of increasing prestige and attraction for the sophisticated urbanite. Construction of the proposed national cultural center in the area is a crowning prospect."

"In Foggy Bottom, Capitol Hill and Georgetown, the city's Board of Condemnation was of considerable help, as the movements gathered momentum, in ordering the amelioration of insanitary and unsafe buildings. Adoption of new housing regulations, with minimum requirements for light, ventilation and occupancy, is upgrading standards over the city."

### WHERE IT ALL STARTS

"When people ask me: 'What can I do-- I'm worried about the state of the world?'-- I tell them to study public affairs so they can make their decisions on the basis of knowledge, not on the basis of prejudice or pure partisanship. I tell them to take an interest in their own community affairs-- that's where it all starts."

-Lester B. Pearson,  
Ottawa, Canada





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DRUG STORE

### ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

The Foggy Bottom Restoration Association has held 2 regular meetings and one special meeting since our last issue.

At our December meeting, Jim Justice, our president, thanked those who had written letters to the District Government about the traffic problems on 25th and 26th Streets. Jim announced that the District contemplated continuing the present plan during the construction of the underpass on K Street. Pat Ogden reported that he had not received the report from the Zoning Commission setting forth their reasons for denial of our petition for reconsideration in connection with the Murray tract.

At our January meeting, the president stated that the property owners have applied for a building permit to erect an eight-story apartment house on the Murray tract, and asked Pat Ogden to review the history of the case. Pat gave a resume of the association's activity and stated that our Executive Committee recommended that the association should not bring a court action. After discussion, the Association decided that no further action be taken in opposition to the apartment development. Instead, it was decided to invite Logan Manders, representing the interests of the apartment development, to discuss his company's plans at a special meeting. The Service Committee reported that it awarded the prize for the best Christmas decorations to Gordon and Sis Campbell, 922 25th Street, and honorable mention to the Alamac and Potomac Plaza.

Francis E. Twiss, Deputy Director of Traffic Engineering in the District Highway Department, discussed the highway program for the area, and stated that the aim of his department is to make the best of existing facilities, because of land scarcity and the fact they do not wish to disturb residential areas, such as ours and those in Georgetown. He stated that the west leg of the freeway will isolate the area, and 25th and 26th will probably become dead-end streets. The speed limits on the Freeway will average

about 10-15 miles per hour faster than the other streets. Trucks will be disbursed, and the present truck route will be abolished. Mr. Twiss spoke briefly on the present traffic conditions on 25th and 26th Streets. He promised his continued cooperation with the Association and answered questions of the members.

The special meeting, held a week after the regular January meeting, was devoted wholly to a presentation of plans for the building of the apartment house on the Murray tract. Mr. Manders said the building is to be a 90-apartment structure. The organization behind the project plans to begin work this month and finish it a year later.

### QUEEN ANNE LANE

Foggy Bottom is to have a new street, though a short one--less than a block long, in fact, and not a real street, but a lane only 30 feet across. The new street will be lined with 18 fine new town houses--nine on each side, facing one another along the little thoroughfare. Construction of Foggy Bottom's newest residential development is to commence in April.

The new street, to be called Queen Anne Lane will cut across the now vacant lot facing 26th Street between I and K Streets. It will connect with the alley that separates the Alamac and Potomac House Apartments and empties into 25th Street, and with the one that leads into Hughes Court (Mews).

A. L. Wheeler of Georgetown is the builder, Billie Barrington, the architect. The 18 town houses will be 2-story structures. All except the two that face on 26th Street will have garages opening on Queen Anne Lane. Plans are being drawn for houses that will have the living room at the back of the ground level, facing the patio. On the first floor also will be the kitchen and powder room. Two bedrooms, each with bath, will be on the second floor, and above that will be an attic for storage.

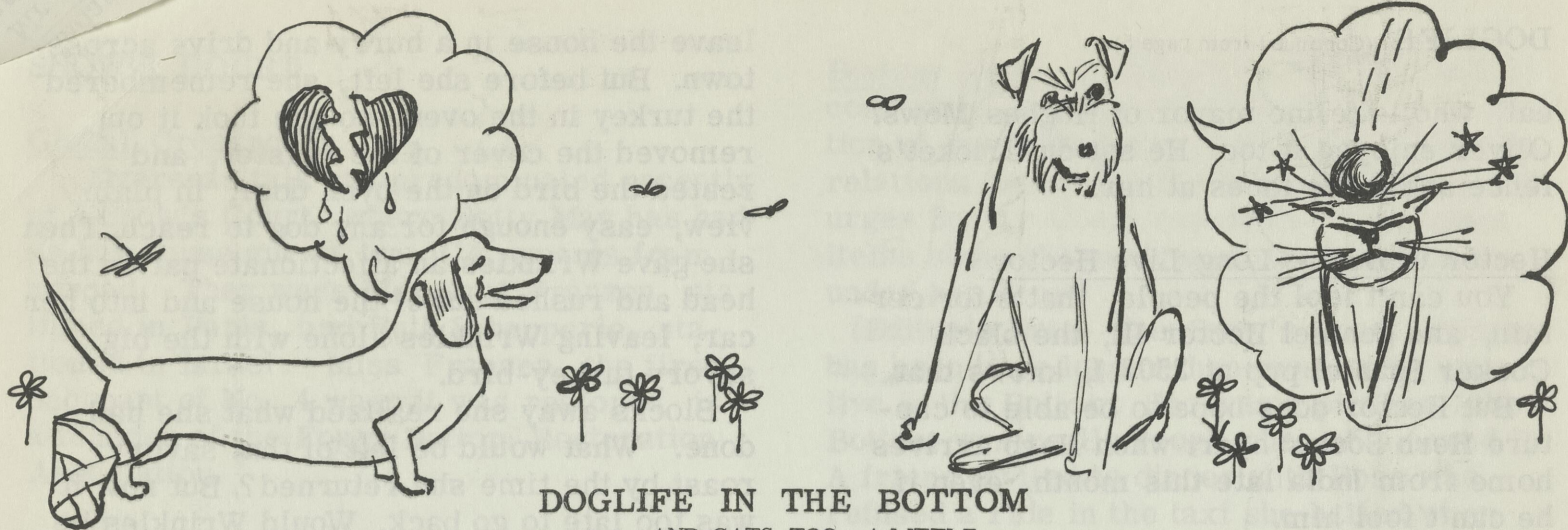
Total area of house and patio as planned is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  by 60 feet, 36 feet in house and 24 feet in patio. The houses will be built to sell for \$45,000 to \$50,000. The development will represent an investment of nearly \$900,000.

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everything from the ground up





## DOGLIFE IN THE BOTTOM

AND CATS, TOO--A LITTLE

### Hermione and Cocos

Nothing but trouble has followed Hermione, the dachshund miss who lives with Morella Hanson on I Street, ever since a car ran over the little dog's leg one night during Christmas week. Hermione dashed out into One-Way Busy 25th Street, and blamb! -- in the twinkling of an eye a passing taxicab shattered 4 toes on her right rear foot and broke the shinbone in 3 places.

Well, of course Morella did everything she could. After she had emergency treatment, Hermione came home from the vet hospital with a large ugly cast on her injured foot and shinbone. At best, she could hobble-hobble about in a sort of awkward lope. And then she came into season. How embarrassing!

A handsome big fellow of mixed strain, part German Shepherd, a loafer around Snow's Court, had been making passes at Hermione ever since she took up her abode in Morella's patio last summer. But Hermione, still just a pup, had no idea what was in the fellow's mind--his name is Cocos. Hermione enjoyed his companionship--that was all.

But things were different now, as her mind turned on romance. She knew this was not mere puppy love, but the real thing. All day long she would dream of Cocos--how handsome! She could think of nothing but Cocos--and she nearly forgot about her injured foot. If now she could only see him and let him know how she really felt.

Hermione did not have long to wait. One day Morella took off the leash and let her hobble free in the court. And bless my buttons if Cocos didn't happen by! Hermione made a dash for him, hopping, loping, dragging her clumsy splint awkwardly. When Cocos spotted her, every hair on his back stood on end, for he never had seen such a sight in his life. And before Hermione was able to get near him the big Shepherd whirled in his tracks and took flight, disappearing behind a building, and dashed out of the court in a flash, the lights nearly scared out of him.

A sorry plight for poor Hermione, crippled for life and a bleeding heart!

### Cricket Enjoys Evening Revel

Cricket, that rollicking Irish Terrier on 25th Street, had the time of her life one night recently, barking at the moon and the cats.

Usually Margaret Hays, who has raised Cricket from a pup in Foggy Bottom, sleeps with the loop of the leash around her forearm. Cricket doesn't mind--she settles down beside Margaret's bed, happy to be near her.

But when Margaret is away, Cricket ranges at will in and out of the house, to and from the patio, through a special dog-door that she knows how to operate.

On the occasion of Margaret's recent absence all night, Cricket amused herself part of the time barking at Oliver, Jay Goldstein's

(Continued on page 6)





cat, who is feline mayor of Hughes Mews. Oliver enjoyed it too. He sat on Cricket's fence and made faces at her.

### Hector is Dead--Long Live Hector

You can't fool the people, that's for certain, and genteel Hector III, the black Cocker Spaniel pup at 2503 I, knows that.

But Hector does hope to be able to capture Herb Socks' heart when Herb arrives home from India late this month, even if he can't fool him.

You see, Hector II, an old fellow, died of a broken heart after Herb went away last summer, thinking his old friend would never come back. He just lay down and died. And George MacKinnon, who also homes with Herb, went out and bought a pup as much like Hector II as one dog can resemble another. (Before Hector II, there had been Hector I, of the same breed.)

But George was afraid he would spoil Herb's trip if he told him what happened, Herb loved Hector II so. George decided to keep the secret from Herb till he got home.

People who have met Hector III feel sure that Herb will take to him at once, he's such a loving pup. But he has no taste as yet for the dregs of a coffee cup like Hector II had. Hector II would sit at your feet by hours and beg till you finished your cup, then lick it clean. Young pups can't learn old tricks in a day.

But Hector III is nice at climbing up in your lap, laughing at everything, and licking your cheeks if you give him half a chance.

Unlike Hector II, too, Hector III enjoys books. At one sitting recently he consumed Shaw's Man and Superman. But of course Hector III is English Cocker, whereas Hector II was of the American strain. That may explain the difference.

### Dog of Honor

For fortitude, we give you Wrinkles, the Boxer who looks after Sis Campbell, on 25th Street.

One day Sis was roasting a turkey. At the moment it was ready to take out of the oven the telephone bell rang. It was an emergency call, as it happened, and Sis had to

leave the house in a hurry and drive across town. But before she left, she remembered the turkey in the oven, so she took it out, removed the cover of the roaster, and rested the bird on the oven door, in plain view, easy enough for any dog to reach. Then she gave Wrinkles an affectionate pat on the head and rushed out of the house and into her car, leaving Wrinkles alone with the big savory turkey-bird.

Blocks away she realized what she had done. What would be left of that savory roast by the time she returned? But now it was too late to go back. Would Wrinkles be able to resist such temptation as this? Maybe--but Sis had her doubts.

An hour later she returned to find that noble beast crouched in front of the big brown bird as if in a mystical trance, practically swimming in saliva that he had drooled. But he hadn't so much as touched Mr. Turkey.

### Midwinter House Guest

Emma of Potomac Plaza, the matriachial Poodle who makes her home with Mrs. Fred Othman, was the house guest of a friend while her so-called mistress was away for a midwinter vacation. When Hilda got back from Hawaii and Los Angeles, friends didn't ask her where she had been--they wanted to know why Emma had been away.

### Bottom Cats Face Crisis

If cats had citizenship rights they would deserve unanimous decisions by the Supreme Court for the treatment they receive in Foggy Bottom.

What with paved streets and flagstone patios, few places are left for the dainty creatures to go out when they need to.

Now comes an invention to keep them away from the vicinity of shrubs, the little loose soil remaining in all the Bottom. Annoyed with the nuisance of disturbed roots around the plants, along her garden wall, a neighbor of ours got a hammer and broke some bricks into bits, then topped the loose soil with a solid layer of the broken pieces. Never a cat's paw has loosed one smidgen of brick!

So what is a cat to do? Change the immemorial manner of the feline family and act like dogs? Or petition the District Fathers for a new zoning ordinance?





## SNOW'S COURT

### Global Crossroads

Overseas talk has predominated recently at 4 Snow's Court, where Betty May has had as her house guests two ICA experts from abroad. They were Margaret Franzen, stationed in Paris, and Ruth Schepperle, stationed in Israel. Miss Franzen, the first occupant of No. 4 when it was restored, is a founder of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association.

### Construction Watcher

C. Malcolm Watkins, 15 Snow's Court, has made a quick trip to Middleton, Mass., where he visited his mother. The trip probably took his mind off that "big hole in the ground" at Constitution Ave. and 14th St., which he has been watching for weeks--and with good reason. He is with the Smithsonian Institution and the "hole in the ground" is the start of the Smithsonian's new Museum of History and Technology. Watkins is working on plans for the many exhibits--from locomotives to porcelain--which will be housed in the big marble building once it is completed. But all the plans for exhibit space must be made well in advance of the building's completion.

### Popular Baby-sitter

Mrs. Mary Moynihan, 7 Snow's Court, is looking forward to a two-week visit in Philadelphia, where she will take care of her three grandchildren, ages six to thirteen, while her daughter, Sally, and son-in-law, Thomas Wood, go to Florida for a vacation. The grandchildren, when they heard about the arrangement, were nonchalant about their parents' going away but delighted that their beloved "Mimi" was coming to stay with them.

### New Residents

Snow's Court welcomes the two new residents at No. 21, both formerly of San Francisco. They are Helen Gale, who is in the office of Undersecretary of Commerce John Allen, and Jan Ellis, who is in the office of Rep. William S. Mailliard (R., Calif.). Before joining Snow's Court, they lived on Capitol Hill and Georgetown.

### Winter Escapee

Mrs. Dan Kohr, 22 Snow's Court, has fled Washington's chilly temperatures for a month in sunny Coral Gables, Fla. Before going South, she spent an engrossing weekend playing in a bridge tournament in Baltimore.

### "Reporter" Back

Rose McKee, 2 Snow's Court, who is the Court's "reporter" for the Foggy

Bottom News, is back from the 16th annual convention-exposition of the National Association of Home Builders in Chicago. A public relations expert for the home-builders, she urges Snow's Court residents to slip news items about themselves or their neighbors, under her door.

(Editor's Note--Our Snow's Court reporter has been here longer than most of us who live in the Bottom. She was a pioneer--the Bottom was really rough when she moved in. A friend invited to dinner with Rose was refused a ride in the taxi she hailed when she told the driver to take her to Snow's Court. She persuaded him only after he called up headquarters to get approval. The man at headquarters instructed the driver to wait and see who opened the door. Rose covered the U. S. Senate for International News Service 16 years. After INS merged with United Press, she took her present job with the National Association of Home Builders. She does free-lance writing, often appearing in the Washington Star with signed stories.)

## EYE STREET ITEMS

By Morella Hansen

Elizabeth Harter, 2409 Eye Street, was transferred to Morocco recently.

Alexander and Joan Bickel have taken over the "Jack-and-Russ" house at 2408 Eye. Alexander is a professor of law at Yale. He is on leave of absence this year to work at the Library of Congress, collecting material on one period of the History of the Supreme Court. His period is 1910-30. The history, a project of Yale University, is the work of a number of scholars. We hope Alexander and Joan enjoy their sojourn in the Bottom. Jack and Russ put up at the Rainvilles' house in the 2500 block of Eye Street before moving to Capitol Hill.

Speaking of Capitol Hill, Rhea Radin opened a branch office up there recently--151 H S. E. She is not, REPEAT NOT, moving out of the Bottom--and to Capitol Hill, at that!

Moving out, however, are Bill Richards, 2435 Eye Street, and Clara. Clara is a dog of uncertain ancestry.

Pat Patterson moved into 2429 Eye St. just in time to entertain his family at Thanksgiving. (We are sorry we didn't learn about it sooner.)

Nathaniel Davis, 2413 Eye St., had a wild time in September with the Khrushchev party on its 10-day trek across the U. S. and back. Nathaniel's responsibilities were several Soviet cabinet ministers and other VIP, including Dr. Markov, who signed Stalin's death certificate. Other news: Little Margaret Davis now WALKS.



## LESSON IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

A friend of ours who lives in one of the courts abutting 25th Street has been practicing a political theory he learned from a book. It is based on the simple fact that "only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches." \*

What started him off was the decision of the District to route all traffic on 25th Street one way north between Virginia Avenue and K Street. The file of correspondence from our friend to District officials, and their replies, provides the text of our lesson in political science for today. As our friend desires to remain anonymous, let us call him Dr. B (B stands for "bee").

H. L. Aitken to Dr. B  
December 7, 1959

Your letter of November 20, 1959 addressed to Commissioner Welling, relative to the one-way operation of 25th Street, N.W., between Virginia Avenue and K Street, has been forwarded to the Department of Highways and Traffic for reply.

The present one-way operation of 25th Street and 26th Street, N.W., within the above limits, was originally initiated as a temporary measure to accommodate traffic during construction work in this area. However, operation experience to date indicates that this arrangement has assisted greatly in facilitating the movement of traffic in this section of the City, and it will be needed at least until the Washington Circle Underpass and other freeways are completed.

The Department of Highways and Traffic has been in receipt of numerous letters from persons in this area expressing concern over the parking situation as a result of the one-way operation. Actually, during the off-peak traffic periods, more parking spaces are now available than under the circulation plan formerly in effect in this area.

\* The book, "The Modern Democratic State" by A. D. Lindsay, discusses the "argument" about shoes pinching on pages 268-273. "Let us begin with the argument about shoes pinching," writes Dr. Lindsay, himself an Oxford Don. "If we start with the statement I have described as the authentic note of democracy, 'the poorest he that is in England has a life to live as the richest he,' if we remember that the end of Democratic government is to minister to the common life of society, to remove the disharmonies that trouble it, then clearly a knowledge and understanding of that the common life is a large part of the knowledge essential to the statesman. But the common life . . . can only be known by those who live it. . . . It is their shoes that pinch and they only who can tell where they pinch."

Dr. B to H. L. Aitken  
December 16, 1959

This letter, which is a reply to yours of December 7, is in protest to your decision to order traffic one way between K Street and Virginia Avenue on 25th Street, N. W., a plan that you state is to continue "at least until the Washington Circle Underpass and other freeways are completed."

Copies of this letter are being forwarded to Senators Stuart Symington and Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., and Congressman Charles H. Brown, all of whom live in Washington and represent the interests of District residents. These men also represent Missouri, my native State; they are indeed the only true representatives I have in the City of Washington.

Now let us examine this arbitrary act of yours, which was done without consideration of the interests of several hundred residents in these blocks, apparently only to speed our neighbors in Virginia and Maryland to their cocktails in the evening, or to permit them to spend a few additional moments over bacon and eggs in the morning.

As a result of your order, 25th Street is clogged with traffic during the rush hours morning and evening, so that it takes 10 to 15 minutes for a motorist to get his car into the street from Hughes and Snow's Courts outgoing, and as long to creep along 25th Street from Virginia Avenue to the court entrances in the evening.

Before your order was issued, these traffic bottlenecks to the courts were difficult enough to negotiate, for something more than 200 car owners use these alleys as their only means of leaving and entering. Four large apartment houses, a church parking lot, about 25 owners of row houses in Snow's Court and Hughes Court, and an equal number of owners of row houses that face on 24th, I, and 26th Street have garages or parking facilities within Snow's Court and Hughes Court. The only access to 25th Street is through the narrow alleys that empty into the street. Your traffic order now makes it all but impossible to gain access to that thoroughfare during rush periods.

You state that you have "been in receipt" of numerous letters "expressing concern over the parking situation." Well, for those who must find a parking place or sell their cars you might have shown some sympathy. Add to that, you have made our quiet neighborhood street a mad traffic artery which the impotent police officers on the corner find it impossible to cope with. Big trucks loaded with gravel dump it loosely on our pavement as they rumble along, and large concrete trucks, mufflers wide open, forge down the street sounding their horns with a deafening roar. Pedestrians cross K Street at their own peril.

People are moving out of Foggy Bottom to get away from the noises and confusion. Where are they going? Perhaps to Fairfax, where they have a friendly representative in the District Government.

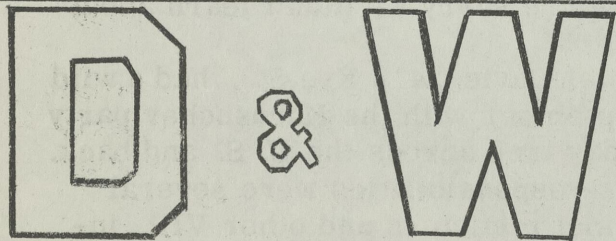
[Editor's note: Mr. Aitken's residence is in Fairfax, Va.]

H. L. Aitken to Dr. B  
December 18, 1959

This will refer to your letter of December 16, 1959, in further regard to traffic operations on 25th Street, N.W., between Virginia Avenue and K Street.

The views expressed in your letter of the above date will be kept in mind as we continue to watch actual traffic operations and study means considered best suited for serving the public in this general area. We are solicitous of the interest, views and opinions of our residents on 25th Street, but in all fairness to your neighbors, it is believed that the present operation does tend to reduce the volume of traffic on 26th Street, N. W.

(Continued on page 9)



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LETTER S (Continued from page 8)

Senator Symington's Administrative Assistant to Dr. B  
December 28, 1959

As Senator Symington and Mrs. Roberts are both away from the office at the present time, I am taking the liberty of sending you the enclosed letter from the Director of Highways and Traffic, of the District of Columbia, which speaks for itself.

Please be assured that Senator Symington is always glad to be of assistance to you whenever possible.

H. L. Aitken to Senator Symington  
December 22, 1959

This will refer to your letter of December 18, 1959, with which you transmitted a letter addressed to you by [Dr. B], concerning one-way traffic on 25th Street, N.W., between Virginia Avenue and K Street.

In the face of a significant and rapid increase in population in the Metropolitan Area and the propensity of our citizens to rely upon the private automobile for a great portion of their transportation requirements, coupled with the delays inherent in the creation of improved arterials and freeways, the traffic engineer is exposed to a series of problems which certainly merit the use of the phrase or adage that he needs "the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon."

In undertaking his task, the traffic engineer relies upon the data and experience of others in his field over approximately the last twenty-five years. All of us in the business know that the one-way streets have a number of advantages including: "Increasing the capacity of a facility;" "increasing the average speed of traffic;" "facilitating the operation of a progressive signal system;" "reducing most types of accidents;" "eliminating headlight glare;" "improving pedestrian movement;" "improved operation of traffic;" and, "reduces amount of police enforcement necessary."

The Highway Capacity Manual issued by the Bureau of Public Roads in 1950 also discusses the advantages of one-way streets and includes charts on page 86 which show a comparison of street capacity with one-way and two-way operation in downtown and intermediate areas. During the past few months we have recommended regulations which have been approved by the Board of Commissioners to operate traffic on a number of streets in a one-way direction. Without such service we seriously doubt that Washington can even reasonably well meet its requirements in terms of moving people and goods.

We sincerely regret that [Dr. B] has been inconvenienced and that he is discomforted by the one-way traffic on 25th St. As I indicated in my letter to him of December 7th, we believe that the one-way operation on 25th Street will be critically needed, at least until the Washington Circle Underpass and other freeways are completed in this area. We solicit his cooperation and urge that he respect the interest of his neighbors on 26th Street, some of whom have written us that they are delighted with the change.

H. L. Aitken to Congressman Brown  
January 21, 1960

[Same letter Mr. Aitken wrote to Senator Symington]

Representative Charles H. Brown to Dr. B  
January 25, 1960

Your letter, regarding the one-way traffic problem on 25th Street, N.W., was brought to my attention after I returned to Washington, and I immediately discussed the situation with the Committee on Public Works.

Their only suggestion was that I contact Mr. Aitken; and I am enclosing the letter I received from him today. I know this report will be even more disappointing to you than it is to me, but apparently we have really run up against a stone wall on this one. Do you have any suggestions on any further steps we should take?

I appreciated the opportunity to look into this for you, and regret that the news is so discouraging. However, if there is anything else I can do to assist you, at any time, please don't hesitate to call on me.

DR. B IS NOT DISCOURAGED. HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NONE, SAYS HE. "AT LEAST WE GOT A TRAFFIC LIGHT AT 25th AND K, AND A SIGN ON EACH SIDE OF 25th AT HUGHES AND SNOW'S COURT -- DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION"

## HUNDRED PERCENT MEMBERSHIP IN MEWS

Householders who live in Hughes Mews are all paid up members of the Foggy Bottom Association. One of them told us why he joined, and it seemed to us that what he said made sense. "We have our best chance for a voice in local affairs here in Washington if we support our neighborhood association," he said. "In fact, that's our only chance, because this city has no local government in which citizens are represented."

## HARRY AND BRENDA ANNOUNCE

Harry Griffin of Hughes Mews is to be married next summer. The bride-to-be is Brenda Raudenbush of St. Paul, Minnesota. Brenda is a senior at Smith. Harry and Brenda met a couple of years ago when Harry was a senior at Harvard. He graduated cum laude, then signed up for service in the Armed Forces. He plans to enter Law School at Duke after he finishes his stint in the Army next summer. With his law degree and Brenda, we predict, Private Griffin will soon be coming back to Washington as Congressman Griffin, or as the Junior Senator from North Carolina.

## NEW CARRIER ON POST ROUTE

We interviewed Calvin Monroe, our Post paper carrier, on the eve of his departure for Fort Jackson, S. C., to begin his duty with the Armed Forces. Calvin told us that his route was the best in the 82nd District, and has more than 300 subscribers. Route 31 it is, and it comprises the area between 24th and 27th Streets and H to K Streets. Calvin received more than \$80 in Christmas gifts from his customers, ranging from a dollar to five dollars each.

His successor on the route is Jefferson O'Neal. Jefferson is 15 and lives at 2303 N Street. He has 2 brothers--Edward, 7, and Ronald, 11--and a sister, Juanita, 12. His mother works at the Blue Ribbon Laundry. She and Jefferson are the entire support of the family. Jefferson is a sophomore at Western High. He aspires to be a writer. With a name like that he ought to make it.

## BOB KEITH PROMOTED

Bob Keith of 25th Street was named assistant to the president of Washington Gas Light Co. recently. Former commercial manager, Bob has been with the company 25 years.

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## EARLY DAY FOGGY BOTTOM

We continue the series, begun in our October issue, that we gleaned from articles on Old Washington written by John Clagett Proctor for the Sunday Star over a period of many years. A complete file of these fascinating articles may be found in the Washingtoniana Room of the Main Public Library. The following piece by Proctor in the Sunday Star, June 2, 1940.

An early writer on Washington history expressed his views of "Foggy Bottom" thus:

"This locality, embracing the low grounds south of F Street and extending from 17th Street west to Rock Creek, was before the draining of the grounds noted for its unhealthfulness, as will be remembered by many of our old residents. The "Foggy Bottom" chills were sufficient to deter most persons from settling in that region, and little or no business was done there except by the duckers and fishermen who occupied the tenements erected near the river. Until a few years past, probably not more than a score of houses dotted the southern portion of this locality, and its desolated appearance made it look as if it might be the abode of 'ghosts and spirts' who haunt the night.

"Within a few years past this locality has been greatly improved by drainage, and quite a number of fine houses occupy the former sites of the old frog ponds and marshy places which the boys were wont to explore in pursuit of frogs, catfish, and mud-turtles. The incessant croakings of the frogs at night in this section of the city and its lonely and desolate appearance often furnished material for marvelous stories of ghostly sights, etc., which with the superstitious surroundings of an old fortune teller who lived for many years in this locality, served the double purpose of the old woman in gaining support and securing the confidence of her customers."

## FIRST FARM JOURNAL

Our neighbor on the right bank of Rock Creek, Georgetown, has the distinction of being the birthplace of the first farm journal published in America--The Agricultural Museum, launched July 4, 1810.

## HERBERT IN ASIA \*

New Delhi

Thursday, August 27

Dear George,

Well, here I am comfortably ensconced in Ashoka Hotel, India's finest. It is truly a magnificent place, with 300 rooms and about 1200 servants! They're just all over the place. It is costing me about \$11 a day, including early morning tea, late afternoon tea, and of course the usual three meals a day. There are other less expensive places where I could save perhaps \$3 or \$4 a day, but so far only those on the Fair staff who are staying here have not succumbed to the well known and really torturous disease known as "Delhi Belly." So for the time being, at least, I think it is worth what I'm paying.

Truly India is a remarkable country. On the one hand there is wealth beyond even the wildest dreams. Such lavishness and splendor is hard to imagine. On the other hand there is such abject poverty that it would be difficult even to attempt to describe it. Here the people work almost unbelievably hard. Everything is done by hand, even to the cutting of grass with a long curved blade -- like a scythe blade, except that one edge is dull and used as a handle. The native squats on his haunches and sort of sprawls along, a few inches at a time, as he works. Yet he appears to be happy, and laughs and jokes with his fellow laborers as he moves along.

The traffic is also impossible to imagine. The cars are right-hand drives and move to the left, as in England. But the bicycles! There are thousands of them, and to drive through them at rush hour is really something. Horns are used for steering. Believe me, I just close my eyes and hope! (Continued on page 11)

\* In an earlier issue we published parts of letters written by our former President, Herbert Socks, then in Europe. He arrived in New Delhi, India, in August, where he has been helping administer the U. S. exhibit of the World Agriculture Fair. We now publish excerpts from letters written by Herb from New Delhi and Bombay to George MacKinnon, who graciously shares them with us.

stop!!

TAKE YOUR CAR TO

r i n e h a r t

Virginia Ave at 27th

FE 3-9829



It is very quiet here socially. Yesterday was an Indian holiday of some sort, and I worked only part of the day. The hotel has a magnificent swimming pool, the only one in Delhi, so I headed straight for it. At the pool I bumped into the Pan American crew that landed me here. They were on a layover, and a nicer group of people would be hard to find. We spent the afternoon together and they invited me for a drink (a weak Scotch), then we all had dinner together in the hotel.

Friday night  
August 28

I am free this weekend, and Whad, my Indian assistant, has arranged a car for me to go to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, and he may even go along himself. He is a perfectly delightful person, a university graduate with a degree in economics and a great deal of shipping experience. He has made a number of very valuable suggestions and seems to know many of the officials with whom I am to deal. Whadi has a keen sense of humor, and I enjoy his company more than that of anyone else I've met here.

These people are very nice, and they are so much in need of help--and deserving of it too. They are kind, gentle souls for the most part, and although it's hard to see it at first, they are trying desperately to help themselves. Even though my job is relatively unimportant in the overall scheme of things, it gives me a lot of pleasure and satisfaction to know that in my own puny way I may be helping a little bit.

I suppose I sound like a missionary, and maybe I am. But since I have been here I have always tried to understand the people and their problems and not throw my weight around.

The normal custom here is to send for a businessman if you want to see him. I rather dislike the idea of "summoning" anyone, so I set out today to see some local land brokers about renting some much needed warehouse space. I lined up three good possibilities. True, I had to do business in seom awfully dank, dark, and dreary offices off narrow little alleyways. And once I had to wait for a sacred cow to pass by. I stood patiently on the side of the alley, with the temperature about 120 degrees, and waited until she got by me before proceeding on my way. Whad was with me, and at no time did I fee insecure or unsafe. The people we passed all smiled and spoke to me, and the businessmen we dealt with were pleasant and appeared to like me.

But make no mistake about it -- they are very shrewd.

I may not get a chance to write for several days, but I want you to know that I am well and very much interested in my job.

Bombay  
Thursday, Sept. 17

I had lunch today with two representatives of Wyeth here -- both Indians and exceedingly fine young men. One, Dr. Samson, is a convert from the Jewish faith to Catholicism. We had quite a long and interesting discussion. The other was educated in the States--Haverford and Cornell--but appears to be quite British. Oddly enough, he is from a "scheduled" class, formerly the untouchables. I didn't question him about his rise to his present position (one of considerable responsibility), but I'll wager it must be very interesting. We are to have dinner together some night, and perhaps I'll find out then.

Every night after dinner I usually take a little walk, and when I return there is always a little girl, about 8 or 9 years old, and the sweetest, prettiest little thing you can imagine, waiting in the driveway with a bunch of faded flowers in her fist. I lean over and let her put one in my lapel and give her a small coin. She takes my hand and walks to the front door with me, and then I gravely bend over and give her back the flower. She takes it, smiles ever so sweetly, murmurs, "Thank you, Sahib," then runs back to the end of the driveway to await her next customer. And when I have occasionally come in rather late--12:00 or 1:00 in the morning--she is still there! It just about breaks your heart to watch the pathetic little ceremony. But at least she has something to sell.

George, tell the folks in the Bottom that I think of them a great deal, even if I don't have much time to write. Take care of yourself and be sure you eat well, and please give the "little feller" a big hug for me.

Best,  
Herb

"Foggy Bottom Says--"

When newspaper reporters refer to the source of foreign policy in London they frequently attribute it to Whitehall, and when they refer to the French Foreign Affairs Office, they speak of Quai d'Orsay. Naturally, when they attribute something to our own State Department they often write "Foggy Bottom Says," because of the location of the Department. In the Sunday Star Magazine for January 3, for example, Earl Voss wrote, "There was a similar reaction in Foggy Bottom when Mr. Herter settled down in his fifth-floor State Department office."



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## ARENA STAGE NOTES

Arena Stage has special Saturday matinee rates for members of the Armed Forces and area high school students and teachers. Upon presentation of ID cards, enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces are admitted for a dollar, and high school students and teachers in the Washington area may take advantage of a half-price rate, upon proper identification.

A good many Foggy Bottomers favor the Saturday matinee performance for theater- and after-theater-supper parties. The show is over right at cocktail time; dinner can follow at a leisurely pace. Guests usually go home early, too.

The role of Commander Queeg in the current Arena offering, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," is played by Leon Janney--his first appearance at the Foggy Bottom theater. Others in the cast are Michael Lipton as Lt. Greenwald, defense attorney, and Philip Bosco as Lt. Maryk. Arena's resident director, F. Cowles Strickland, directed the production. It will run through the second week in March.

Marion Morris was written up in the New York Times after her matchless performance of Clara in "Clandestine on the Morning Line." The Times published a picture of Marion in character.

How actors adapt themselves to parts so different from themselves is one of the mysteries of the stage as we outsiders see it. Marion, the sophisticated world traveler, the scholar, the intellectual, all of a sudden, for a long part in a slow show, becomes this Alabama hillbilly woman as convincingly as life itself, and raises the play from the ordinary to very special status.

## FARGO BANDMASTER

Velva Rudd of Hughes Mews was called to Fargo, N. D., recently to attend her father in his last illness. He died shortly after she arrived. Fargo knew Harold Rudd as the organizer and conductor of

its civic orchestra back in 1931, and as leader of the Shrine Band. Eighty-four years old, at his death, Vel's father had spent his entire adult life as a professional musician and music teacher. He had been secretary of the Fargo musicians' union for 35 years.

## THE BEACON REAPPEARS

By Catherine McGettigan

Do you know what a Beacon is? Many would answer "a lighthouse or a guiding light." Others, like the students of Immaculate Conception Academy at 24th and K Streets, N. W. would say with a note of pride "why it's our school paper!" Behind this is an important reason. In September of '59 for the first time in six years the I. C. A. Beacon rolled off the press. This was the result of many hours of tedious work on the part of the newspaper staff at the school, and the editor, Anne Crown. Through their teamwork, the students were able to resurrect the newspaper which had been previously replaced by a yearbook some years before.

Some of the outstanding highlights of this year's paper are columns like "The Critic" a light review of recent movies, "Scene By Sue" a column depicting everyday happenings around the school, and "Time Out" our sports review.

Although the Beacon was first rated in the National Scholastic Press Association in 1937, '38, and '39, it was first printed in 1935 under the title of "Marial Notes." As in years before, Immaculate's staff, along with that of the paper, hope that they can uphold the standards set by their predecessors on the paper.

Editor's Note: Our school reporter at Immaculate Conception Academy, Catherine McGettigan, has consented to give us a regular school column, recounting current happenings at I. C. A. We are glad to have Catherine join our staff. She is a junior and a member of the staff of the Beacon, the school paper. Her home is in Foggy Bottom, 2215 F Street.

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## THELMA CAIN VICTIM OF HEART ATTACK

Sad-eyed, slow-talking Thelma Cain, one of Foggy Bottom's most familiar residents, died in her apartment at 2500 K Street in December, apparently of heart failure.

Owner of the two-story house at 919 Hughes Mews, and a similar structure on Cherry Lane, Georgetown, Miss Cain was a Bureau of Engraving employee. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, she had resided in Georgetown until recently, when she moved to K Street.

A lonely yet a friendly person, Miss Cain often ambled in her customary slow, measured gait across the bridges from Georgetown to Foggy Bottom to visit her friends and tenants.

Her body was discovered Tuesday, December 15, by the manager of her apartment house, Mrs. Florence K. Cowell. Employees at the Bureau of Engraving had inquired about Miss Cain when she failed to appear for work on December 14.

District Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald announced that Miss Cain had died over the weekend apparently of a heart attack.

Funeral services and burial were at Decatur, Alabama. Miss Cain is survived by a brother, John J. Cain, of the Montgomery, Alabama, Highway Department.

## INDIAN SEAMSTRESS

Elizabeth Hagans, who handles the counter at Richard Bell Cleaners of an evening, is half Mohawk Indian. You can see it if you look at the bone structure of her nose and cheeks. Elizabeth's grandfather lives on an Indian Reservation. He says he is 93, but Elizabeth says he must be older, because he has a son past 80. Elizabeth is the tailor at Richard Bell's. She likes all her work except sewing on buttons.

Elizabeth certainly has done her part in hybridizing the race. When she was in Germany during World War II she married a Frenchman. She and her Frenchman, whose name is Ferdinand, had a daughter. They were divorced, and Elizabeth has remarried, but the daughter spends alternate years with her father in France and her mother here. Elizabeth has a little boy, a 12-year old, by her present husband, and recently she and her husband took in a lad of the same age to look after, because there was nobody else who cared enough.

## DOGPATCH DOGFIGHT

This is a story of a man who was attacked by his own best friend--his dog. The story has a moral.

It all started when the man tried to stop a dogfight. We'll say it was in Dogpatch, U. S. A. We heard about it from a Foggy Bottom neighbor who had it in a letter from his sister. We publish the item here because the same thing that happened in Dogpatch could happen to you in Foggy Bottom. The account of it as written to our Foggy Bottom friend follows:

"Robert tried to separate his little dog 'Spain' from a big black dog, and he slipped and fell. Both dogs attacked Robert while he was down. He yelled for help and some men heard him and rushed to his rescue. His flesh was not torn, but the prints of dog teeth were on his arms, his face, and ears; and his leg that is afflicted with thrombosis was bitten, too. He has bandages on both his arms and his leg, and large patch is on his left ear. But he seems to be getting along fine. And his little dog Spain is already out of the doghouse, and licking Robert's wounds."

Moral: Stay out of fights.

## GW COMMENCEMENT

George Washington University has a mid-winter commencement, Washington's Birthday. GW's first commencement (in 1824) was attended by President Monroe, members of his cabinet, and the Marquis de Lafayette, then on his farewell visit to the United States.

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### THE SHERIFF SAYS —

That even with the traffic lite at 25th and K it is hard to dodge those mad Virginians bound home at nite...those "Johnny-on-the-Spots" are not open at nite...that they should choose some ecclesiastical name for the new apartment house at 24th and H for the church it supplanted...the Los Angeles papers ran a story that the Foggy Bottom name should be changed to gain dignity, and who was here first?...that if little Ceci McLaughlin at 910 25th does not grow up to be a great athlete like her Poppa Joe it will not be his fault--she does handstands now at 2 months...that the red lanterns hanging in front of 2530 Eye were giving our region a bad name...that the fire the other nite in the paint shop of that furniture place at 25th and H brought out a whole lot of the fire laddies...that with Briggs-Montgomery School closed we do not find so many discarded lessons on our sidewalks...that a wonderful view of Foggy Bottom--and of the whole city--is on the southbound lane of the new portion of the Geo. Washington parkway above Key Bridge...especially at nite...Pip Johnson should be given credit for the cover color pix of that Sunday Star story--she designed the house-front...permitting parking on 26th St. put an end to that driving over the sidewalk which was making a muddy mess of things...that the sale of 2517 Eye Street put a new look on prices for Foggy Bottom property...that we could have our own dog show in the Bottom and cover most classes...that the District has plans for a branch Public Library in the Bottom, but the site has not been selected, so far as we know...that parking will be restricted on New Hampshire Avenue below Virginia soon, to accomodate the northbound lane to K Street...that Carl, who works at Rhineharts, goes to Baltimore to teach once a week....that this is a good time of year to put down crab grass killer...

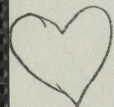


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### OUR NEXT MEETING

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 15 - 8:15 P.M.

PILLSBURY HALL - ST. PAULS PARISH HOUSE

2530 K ST.

MR. WHEELER WILL DISCUSS HIS PROJECT AND  
DISCUSS PLANS FOR FOGGY BOTTOM.

